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The *UNIVERSAL SPECTATOR*, AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

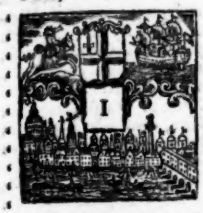
By **Henry Stonecastle**, of *Lincoln's-Inn*, *Esq*;

SATURDAY, February 9, 1745.

Jan. 31, 1744.

To HENRY STONECASTLE, *Esq*;

SIR,



'AM the unhappy Widow of a Citizen of *London*. I was well educated, and brought my late Husband two thousand Pounds, and we lived for near ten Years in great Reputation. But Sickneſs ſo impair'd his Health, that it brought upon him a Complication of Diſorders, and render'd him almoſt incapable of appearing in his Buſineſs; by which his Trade was leſſen'd, and a Series of adverſe Strokes of Fortune reduc'd his Circumſtances.

'I was left a Widow about ſix Months ago, with three fine Children, one Son and two Daughters:—My Son near twelve Years old, and my two Daughters in their Minority. My Huſband died poſſeſs'd of 700 l. which is too ſcanty a Pattern, without Buſineſs, to ſupport Myſelf and three Children.

'I have been adviſed by ſeveral Ladies of my Acquaintance to ſet up a *Coffee-Houſe*, and to admit none but our own Sex. I have ſeveral Relations and Acquaintance that would give me all poſſible Encouragement. I was deſired to apply to you to give me your Sentiments, whether you think I might have any Proſpect of ſucceeding.

'I am your conſtant
'Saturday Reader,
A. L.

MADAM,

I See at preſent no Objection againſt your Scheme, the *Novelty* of which, I am apt to think, would be a ſufficient Recommendation. I doubt not but *Politicks* would be greatly improv'd in a Morning Aſſembly of Ladies, and that the *Queen of Hungary's* Cauſe, in particular, would be warmly promoted. Their Comments upon *Marriages*, *Fortunes*, *Beauty*, *Merit*, and the like, muſt be well worth preſerving. But before this *Coffee-Houſe* is opened, I would gladly clap in *one Clauſe* in my own Favour, which is that *I*, HENRY STONECASTLE, and no other Man living, may have a *Seat behind the Door* half an Hour in a Day, where I will be an humble *Auditor* only, without ſaying a Word in *Converſation*. If my *Correſpondent* agrees to this, I will do her all the Service in my Power.

H. S.

From my own CHAMBERS.

I Hope this Correſpondent has been pretty *exact* in what he has aſſerted, as I would not give any Thing, on ſuch a Subject eſpecially, that might not bear *re-examining*. No Man can be a greater Enemy to *Impoſture* than Myſelf, who have endeavour'd to *detect* whenever I have *perceiv'd it*. If my Friend however has *good ground* for all he ſays, I think there needs no Addition to his *Arguments* at preſent.

To the AUTHOR *of the* UNIVERSAL SPECTATOR.

SIR,

YOU have lately given us two or three Papers upon *Witches* and *Spirits*, which, whatever they may prove with Regard to their *preſent Eſtabliſhment* in the World, I muſt think have ſufficiently *expos'd* thoſe who believe in ſuch Matters. I ſhall only take notice farther, that you had forgot to mention the *Credulity* of the wiſeſt Antients upon theſe Heads, in particular the beſt *Greek* and *Roman Hiſtorians*.

To inſtance only in PLUTARCH, a Man in the general ſo far from being *ſuperſtitious*, that he has wrote an Eſſay *againſt Superſtition*; what idle Stories has he crouded into his Lives concerning *Ghoſts*, *Apparitions*, and *Magicians!* Enough might be pick'd out of him to make a *new Collection*, in order to frighten *Children* and *Servants* in a Series of Winter Evenings, which would be altogether as *diverting*, well expatiated on, as thoſe that are now worn thread-bare, and might beſides undoubtedly be quite *novel* with moſt Readers.

In the Prologue to his Life of CIMON, ſpeaking of *Chæronea*, his native City, he tells a Story of one DAMON, a great *Murtherer*, who was at laſt juſtly *aſſaſſinated* in a hot Bath by his Fellow Citizens. But as he was a *popular Man*, and 'tis probable pretty much in Favour with the *Prieſts* of that Time, he having ONLY *ſlain all the civil Officers* of the City, a Tale was immediately trump'd up, which PLUTARCH gravely recites, that *Spirits* were afterwards ſeen in the Place, and *Groanings* and *Sighings* heard, upon which the Door of the Houſe was walled up: 'And for all that, adds he, 'there are *Viſions* ſeen, and terrible *Voices* heard, in the 'ſame Place to this Day, as the NEIGHBOURS TESTIFY.'—What an Inſtance is here either of *Craft* or *Credulity*? Why did not PLUTARCH inform himſelf, as he too was a *Neighbour*, without relying on the *Teſtimonies* of others? From this *ſingle Inſtance* I would leave any one who reads him to judge, how far we are to credit any other of his *wonderful Stories*, with which his Work ſo abounds, when he had not the *Honeſty* or *Curioſity* to examine a Fact, that was certainly within his own Power. I believe moſt other *Hiſtories* of the ſame Kind, whether antient or modern, are founded upon much the ſame Authority as the DAMON of *Chæronea*.

But PLUTARCH was a *Prieſt*, and ought therefore to be ſuſpected in Matters that regarded the *Advantages* of his Order. We know this was the Caſe among all the antient *Heathens*, and Travellers aſſure us it is ſo among the *Pagans* of this Age. It is no Imputation upon *Chriſtians* to ſay this of *Idolaters*. But I wiſh there was nothing in which the *former* had given too readily into the Cheats and Dreams of the *latter*, as I doubt they did in particular with regard to *Oracles*. The antient Fathers triumph'd upon the *Ceſſation of Oracles*, pretending that it happen'd preciſely at the *Birth of the* MESSIAH, of whoſe Power over *Demons* it was therefore an undeniable Proof: Whereas it is certain that there were *Oracles* a long Time after this happy Period, and that the *Damons* had never any thing more to do with the Matter in *Greece* or *Italy*, than they had more lately with the great *Wicker God* of the *Virginians*, which alſo deliver'd *Oracles*, or with the *ſpra'ing Images* at this Day talked of in ſome ignorant Countries.

VAN DALE, a learned Phyſician, proved all this about ſixty Years ago in a moſt *elaborate Treatiſe*; the Arguments of which Monſ. FONTENELLE reduced into ſmall Compaſs, and threw on them that *agreeable Air* which diſtinguiſhes all his Writings, in his excellent *Hiſtory of Oracles*; a Work ſuited to the meaneſt Capacity, and which has yet Beauties to entertain the fineſt Taſte. One would have thought this ſufficient to overthrow all the Credit of *Oracles* in the Chriſtian World, and that we ſhould never more have had the Words of a *counterfeit Damon* brought in to ſupport a Cauſe, which hath ſo many irrefragable Arguments to ſecure it from *real Hiſtory*.

But the contrary to this has happen'd: Many Gentlemen, even among *Proteſtants*, have thought proper ſtill to drag in the *Devil* for an Evidence to *the Truth of God*, at the ſame time that they call him *a Liar*, and the *Father of Lies*. How often have we heard the *Silence of Oracles* appeal'd to in the Pulpit, as an Event that came to paſs juſt at *ſuch an Æra*? How often are ſuch *Paſſages* as the following repeated, after they have been ſo long proved to be mere *Impoſtures*?

'THULIS was a King of *Egypt*, whoſe Empire extended 'ed to the *Ocean* according to SUIDAS, and who it was 'that gave Name to the *Iſland of Thule*, which many 'imagine to be the preſent *Iceland*. This may ſomewhat countenance the *Scottiſh Fiction*, which derives their national Name from the Daughter of an *Egyptian* King. 'THULIS, as FONTENELLE obſerves, muſt have had 'a *large Empire*, if this was the true Extent of it: And 'we are told he was ſo puff'd up with his Proſperity, 'that he made this Addreſs to the *Oracle of* SERAPIS. "Thou who art the *Maſter of Fire*, and governeſt the "Courſe of Heaven, tell me the Truth: Has there ever "been, or will there ever be, another ſo *powerful as I?*" 'To which the Oracle anſwer'd: *Firſt God, then the Word, 'and the Spirit with them, all aſſembling in one, whoſe Power 'cannot end. Out from hence inſtantly, Mortal! whoſe Life is 'always uncertain.* And at his going out, adds the *Legend*, 'THULIS was aſſaſſinated.'

'AUGUSTUS being old, and thinking of the Choice 'of a *Succeſſor*, went to conſult the *Oracle of Delphos*. For 'a long time the Emperor had no Anſwer, tho' he was 'very laviſh in his Sacrifices: But at the laſt this was 'delivered.

'*The Hebrew Child, whom all the Gods obey, drives me 'from hence, and ſends me back to Hell. Depart this Temple 'without ſpeaking a Word.*

There are many more *Oracles* of this Kind, and ſome yet more explicit upon the greateſt of *Chriſtian Myſteries*, the Holy Trinity: Which the wiſeſt of Men ſince have taken only as the Productions of an *over-forward Zeal*, when it enter'd ſome *weak Heads*. It would indeed be ſtrange if the *Oracles of Paganiſm* were more plain than the *Predictions of the Prophets*, as they certainly muſt be allow'd if theſe Reſponſes, and the *Sibyline Verſes*, are received as genuine.

What I aim at, Mr. STONECASTLE, is to bring theſe *Oracles* to a Level with *Witches* and *Spirits*. I would have them paſs as mere *Impoſitions* upon Mankind; which, if I could effect with *all* your Readers, I am ſure it would be doing great Service both to *Human Reaſon* and *Chriſtianity*. For what can be weaker than to recur to that for Proof of the *greateſt Truths*, which has been over and over demonſtrated to be itſelf *only Deceit*? You have not Room for a Treatiſe, and therefore I ſhall content myſelf with a few *general Head*.

Firſt, The *Cheats of Oracles* have been by ſome always juſtly ſuſpected. They durſt not ſtand againſt *common Senſe*, againſt a little *Curioſity* that in other Caſes had been eſteemed laudable. Their *Ambaſſies* were like the *Pantaqwers* you mentioned in ſpeaking of WAFER's *Voyages*: They had no Power while a *profane Perſon* (which was the Name they gave to all the *Over-curious*) was in the Way to inſpect their *Legerdemain*. If the Perſon refuſed endeavour'd to *remonſtrate*, it was to no Purpoſe: The *People* were againſt him, and in Favour of the *Oracle-Monger*. It was therefore his beſt Way to be *quiet*, when he ſaw a MOB ariſe: And as to the MOB, the *Operator* had nothing to do to ſatisfy them but to *keep the Field*, and make a *Devil* of his Adverſary.

Secondly, They were not only *ſuſpected* in the Time of their full Credit, but many of them were afterwards *demonſtrated* to be mere Illuſions. At the Demolition of ſeveral of theſe *ſo-call Statues*, the Conveniency for the *Prieſt* within was diſcovered, and conſequently the Origin of the *Oracle*. This was when *Chriſtianity* began to prevail over *Paganiſm*, and the *Iconoclaſtes*, or *Image-breakers*, could with Impunity act as they pleaſed. In one of theſe Temples, I think it was of *Æſculapius* in ſome Town of *Cilicia*, we are poſitively told by *Euſebius*, that they *drove out, not a* God *or a* Dæmon, *but the* CHEAT *who had ſo long impoſed upon the Credulity of the People*.

If we believe the ſame Writer, there was in general no Mark of *Divinity* diſcovered within the moſt celebrated Statues; but many Tokens of *human Habitation*, many Contrivances for human *Eaſe*, nay of human *Intemperance* and *Diſſolution*. For theſe *Images*, we are to obſerve, were very large, and had *Cavities* ſuited to many Occaſions. They were but an Improvement upon the more *ſimple Impoſtures*, ſuch as thoſe of the *Druids*, when a large Oak, hollow'd with Age, and perhaps ſome little Art, was made the ſacred Receptacle of the *pretended Divinity*. It was no doubt as *profane* to examine one of theſe Oaks as one of the carved Statues, and we may depend upon it, thoſe who *lived by them* gave little Opportunity for either.

Thirdly, That the Date of the *entire Silence* of Oracles has been given wrong is moſt certain. We may reaſonably ſuppoſe that in the Time of AUGUSTUS they were *fewer* than they had been formerly, and in that of his Succeſſor, TIBERIUS, *fewer ſtill*? But this was owing to no *Miracle*, it was only from the Freedom of *common Senſe* that then prevailed. PLUTARCH, who wrote many Years after the Death of both theſe Emperors, has left us a Treatiſe of the *Oracles that had ceaſed*, but mentions one, that of *Labadia*, as ſtill remaining. I have before invalidated PLUTARCH's Authority upon *wonderful Subjects*: But his Authority for this *remaining Oracle* is as good as we have for any of the Reſt; from whence I would conclude, that none of them had *any Authority at all* but in Impoſture and Ignorance, of *one of which* the much greateſt Part of Mankind had been always poſſeſs'd.

Let us conclude then, Mr. STONECASTLE, that theſe *Deluſions* vaniſhed in proportion as *Good Senſe* and *Learning* made their Appearance; which is a *Suppoſition* that I think the *Time* when it happen'd will ſufficiently juſtify. It was not any *particular Birth*, it was not any *Failure of natural Powers in the Earth* (which is a Reaſon PLUTARCH gives inſtead of a better) that cauſed this *Ceſſation*; it was only the Light of *unprejudic'd Underſtanding* that penetrated into theſe dark Caverns, and diſcovered there had been nothing in them awful but the *Obſcurity*.

Is not this juſt the ſame as with People of the beſt Senſe it has happened in our Days, with regard to *Witches* and *Apparitions*? They no more exiſt but among the *Weak*, who might as well be taught, under *proper Maſters*, to believe in a Revival of *Oracles*. That Chriſtianity ſhould fetch any *Proof* from theſe *Fables*, when it has ſo many *ſolid ones* to produce, is moſt unſufferable. Repeat your *Admonitions* therefore on this Subject, if you think your Readers have ſtill Occaſion for them, that you may not appear to be only a *ſuperficial Spectator*, of Top-knots and Fans. The Subject is neither too light for a *grave*, nor too ſerious for a *gay Mind* that will condeſcend to *think*, and therefore not unworthy of your Conſideration.

I am, &c.

T. LEATHTRICK.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Paris, Jan. 25. The Marqueſs d'Argenſon, Miniſter and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, requeſted a few Days ago M. Van Hoey, Embaſſador from the States General of the United Provinces, to forward the following Letter or Memorial to London, in order to its being deliver'd to the Duke of Newcaſtle.

THE King has been inform'd that the Duke de Belleiſle, Marſhal of France, and the Chevalier de Belleiſle, his Brother, Lieutenant-General of his Armies, being upon a Journey in Germany, put up on the 20th of December laſt at a Poſt-Houſe on the Road from Caſſel to Berlin, which belongs to the King of Pruſſia, having his Arms and his Livery; that having alighted in the Yard of that Houſe, where they thought themſelves in Safety, they were arreſted by a Gang of armed Men, without any Officer of Character at the Head of them, but only a Man who ſtyl'd himſelf Bailiff of Elbingrode, by whoſe Orders the groſſeſt Violences were committed againſt Meſſ. de Belleiſle, which continued 'till their Arrival at Oſterode, whither they were conducted like Criminals, without any Regard for their Perſons and their Dignity, which the Bailiff was thoroughly acquainted with.

Such Exceſſes are not tolerated in any Country, nor in any Circumſtances, and Sovereigns ought to do one another Juſtice for them. His Majeſty does not doubt but the King of Great Britain has already ſent Orders for puniſhing the Bailiff of Elbingrode; and he demands that ſuch Puniſhment may be ſpeedy, and executed with as much Eclat and Severity as that Man's Conduct has been indecent and contrary to all the Rules of Juſtice and Humanity.

His Majeſty is likewiſe inform'd that Meſſ. de Belleiſle continue to be detain'd at Oſterode, tho' he is ignorant of the Motives for it. When they were ſtopt, they were not accompanied by any Troops, but only travell'd with their Domeſticks, and had Reaſon to believe that they ſhould enjoy the Freedom of the publick Roads, as all do that traverſe Germany, either upon their private Buſineſs, or the Affairs of their Maſters. If it be pretended that they made free with the Territory of Hanover, and that in the Corner of it, which they travers'd, there is no ſettled Tranſit; and if the Poſt-Houſe where they were inſulted does not enjoy any peculiar Franchiſes, then Meſſ. de Belleiſle muſt of courſe be deem'd Priſoners of War. On ſuch an Occaſion it is no eaſy Matter to get in a few Days all the neceſſary Eclairciſſements; and as a longer Delay would leave them in Suſpenſe in regard to their Fate, the King, in order to obviate all Difficulties and put an End to their Confinement, has given Orders for paying their Ranſom, according to the Cartel-Treaty ſign'd at Francfort the 18th of July 1743, which was executed in all Points at the End of the Campaign of 1743, and that of 1744.

His Majeſty is perſuaded, that if the King of Great Britain's Commands are not already diſpatch'd to the Regency of Hanover, he will not delay to ſend thither poſitive Orders for ſetting them at Liberty, whether they be look'd upon only as Travellers, or treated as Priſoners of War, in directing the Regency to receive the Price of the Ranſom ſettled by the Cartel, the Amount of which is actually depoſited in the Hands of good ſubſtantial Bankers in London, Hanover, Amſterdam, and Hambourg, at the Option of his Britannick Majeſty; and this is what his Majeſty requires and expects of the King of Great Britain's Fidelity to his Engagements, as he would do himſelf in the like Caſe.

His Majeſty could not, in the preſent Situation of Affairs, get this Memorial deliver'd by his Miniſters to thoſe of his Britannick Majeſty; but he has order'd it to be deliver'd to M. Van Hoey, Embaſſador from the States General to him; and his Majeſty does not doubt but this Miniſter will uſe his Credit with their High Mightineſſes, in order to obtain by their good Offices a ſpeedy Diſpatch of the King of Great Britain's Orders to the Regency of Hanover, for puniſhing the Bailiff of Elbingrode, and releaſing Meſſ. de Belleiſle.

All Princes and States have an Intereſt in not ſuffering the Safety of the High Roads to be interrupted: Hence ariſes the Neceſſity of inflicting an exemplary Puniſhment on the Bailiff of Elbingrode.

The Execution of Cartel-Treaties neither can nor ought to be retarded upon any Pretence whatſoever; and according to that of Francfort, every Priſoner ought to be ſet at Liberty 15 Days after his Detention, either by Exchange or Ranſom.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Sign'd, The Marqueſs d'ARGENSON.

Hamburg, Jan. 22. We have learn'd, by very good Advices from Berlin, an Anecdote that has ſlipt [Here we muſt premiſe, that we don't take upon us to mend the Style, nor the Argument, of this News Writer] that the King at his Return from Sileſia, had no ſooner heard of the Detenſion of Meſſrs. Belleiſle, but that Prince in the Apprehenſion he was in that the Concert between him and the French Court might be diſcover'd by their Papers, ſent for the Marqueſs de Valory, Embaſſador from this laſt Court, to aſk him how ſhe would take this Way of proceeding with her Embaſſador, and that he did not doubt but his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty would make the Court of Hanover give him Satisfaction for it. As to the reſt, we ſee here a private Letter from that Electorate, on the Subject of thoſe two Gentlemens Detention; wherein it is ſaid, in Subſtance, 'That they 'doubted no longer but Marſhal Belleiſle would be carried to London, and that the more it is certain that this Miniſter is look'd upon as the principal Inſtrument of the preſent War, the more it behoves them 'not to releaſe, at leaſt not ſo ſoon, ſo inſinuating a 'Man, who might have engag'd ſeveral Courts of Europe to ſide with his Court; inaſmuch as they were 'inform'd, that he had Orders to repair, not only to 'the Court of Pruſſia, but alſo to thoſe of Ruſſia, Poland, and Sweden, from whence he would have repaired to Copenhagen; where, if he had not ſucceeded 'entirely, he might have labour'd effectually to the 'Prejudice of the Common Cauſe; and, in fine, that 'it was certainly a great Advantage to have ſtopt him 'ſhort in the Progreſs he might have made. We hear '(add they in the ſame Letter) that ſome Foreign Courts look upon this Event as a Breach of the Law of Nations. But whatever Character they pleaſe to give 'M. Belleiſle we ſtill find him in the Caſe that gives us 'a Right to ſecure his Perſon: The Title of Prince of 'the Empire, which he holds only of the Emperor, 'without having been acknowledg'd by the other States 'of the Empire, and without having any Poſſeſſions 'therein, cannot ſave him; much leſs does the Title of 'Embaſſador from France, who is the Enemy of England and the Elector of Hanover, authorize him to enter 'the Territories of the Sovereign againſt whom the 'King, his Maſter, has openly declar'd War, and where, 'in the Declaration which he publiſh'd thereof, the 'Quality of Elector of Hanover, againſt whom he declar'd it, is not omitted; and eſpecially when he 'paſſes through thoſe Territories in his Way to a Court 'in Alliance with his, to concert there Projects prejudicial to his own Dominions. It is alſo out of Diſpute, that this Marſhal is a Priſoner of War in all the 'Forms; France's Project being to over-run, with 'open Force, the Dominions of Hanover, with an Army, which is, as it were, at the very Doors thereof, 'under the Command of Marſhal Maillebois; this ſame 'Project having been diſcover'd by the intercepted Letters of Count Schmettau, &c.'

We have likewiſe Advice from Hanover, that the Regency being inform'd that ſome evil-minded People threaten'd to carry off the Bailiff of Elbingrode, they had, for his greater Safety, order'd him to repair to Hanover, and remain there 'till they can give him the firſt great Bailiwick that ſhall become vacant; which has been promis'd him. We are alſo inform'd, that his Britannick Majeſty ſends a conſiderable Preſent to that Officer, as a Reward for his Zeal and Reſolution in arreſting Meſſrs. Belleiſle.

Letter from the Hague, Feb. 5.

The Earl of Cheſterfield confers frequently with the Members and Deputies of the State; but as for his publick Audience, he will not have it 'till the Return of the Courier he has diſpatch'd to London. It ſeems this Nobleman will ſucceed in engaging their High Mightineſſes to come into all the Meaſures that the Britiſh Court can deſire for the Support of the Common Cauſe; but it is ſtill thought that his Excellency will find it very difficult to bring them to a formal Declaration of War againſt France. The Count of Obdam, one of the principal Members of the State, died laſt Night: In him the Court of Vienna loſes a good Friend, who on all Occaſions warmly eſpouſed her Cauſe.

All our Advices from Germany confirm, that the young Elector of Bavaria has not taken that Step at the Courts of Vienna and Dreſden which is ſo confidently aſſerted in divers publick Papers; and that his Electoral Highneſs has taken upon him the Title of Archduke of Auſtria. Letters from Munich of the 29th of laſt Month ſay, that they wait for the Anſwers of the ſeveral Courts to which the Elector had diſpatched Expreſſes, before they take any final Reſolution; and that as yet they perceived no Change of Meaſures, tho' it appear'd that the Veldt Marſhal Count Seckendorff has no hand in State Affairs.

Count Seinzheim, the Bavarian Miniſter here, has not yet received any Credentials, nor the Letters of Notification of the Emperor's Death to be deliver'd to the States General; which we ſuppoſe is owing to the Court of Munich's not having yet had Leiſure to take all the Meaſures requiſite in the preſent Conjuncture. We are ſtill in the Dark as to the Intentions of the King of Pruſſia, whoſe Meaſures on this Occaſion muſt have a great Influence over thoſe of the other Members of the League of Francfort, Count Podewils, his Miniſter here, not having yet receiv'd any Inſtructions on this Head.

The laſt Advices from Bruſſels inform us, that it has been at laſt reſolved that the 8000 Hanoverian Troops, whoſe March was ſuſpended, ſhall remain in Flanders, and make the enſuing Campaign there; and that it was reckon'd that this Corps would be taken into the Pay of the Maritime Powers.

Advices from Genoa import, that the Court of Madrid has abſolutely reſolved upon invading the Dutchy of Tuſcany, and that in Conſequence of this Reſolution Count Gage was making the neceſſary Diſpoſitions for the Siege of Leghorn; that his Army is but eight Leagues diſtant from that City, and that he flatters himſelf he ſhall take it in 15 Days open Trenches. The ſame Advices add, that the King of Sardinia waited impatiently for two Engliſh Regiments of Foot, which are to be brought to him from Gibraltar.

Letters from Paris of the 29th of laſt Month ſay, that the Count de Baviere, ſome time ſince Embaſſador from the French King to the late Emperor, is to repair forthwith to the young Elector, his Nephew, in order to repeat the Aſſurances, which his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty has order'd M. de Chavigny to give his Electoral Highneſs, that he is reſolved to ſupport him (the Elector) in the Proſecution of his Rights and Pretenſions to the Auſtrian Succeſſion.

The Elector of Cologne is not yet gone to Munich.

Peterſburgh, Jan. 9. All the Foreign Miniſters are come back hither from Moſcow, except the Lord Tyrawley, Embaſſador from the Britiſh Court, who was the laſt in ſetting out. His Excellency ſeems to have had little to do here theſe ſeveral Months paſt, eſpecially ſince the News that the Earl of Hyndford was ordered away from Berlin to relieve him; and 'tis thought he would have been at Home e'er now, were it not that ſome material Reaſons prevail on him to ſtay.——*Perhaps Caſh is very low.*

Vienna, Jan. 16. Two Couriers from Berlin arrived here one after the other within theſe few Days, but we are aſſured that the Court ſent their Diſpatches immediately to London without opening them; and though

we, consequently, cannot know a Tittle of their Contents, yet it is currently reported here that they contain Propositions of Peace from his Prussian Majesty. The Desertion has begun again among the Enemy in Silesia, since their marching out to disturb our Troops in their Winter Quarters: They arrive here by Dozens at a Time, and that too every Day, especially the Hussars, who all take on in our Troops.

M. Lanczinsky, Envoy Extraordinary from the Empress of Russia, who came back hither from Dresden last Week, has had several Conferences with our Ministry, and will be speedily admitted to an Audience of the Queen. The Marquess de Botta has not repaired hither from Gratz: It is said he will go directly to Italy, where a considerable Command will be given him in the Queen's Army: Count Pivalques set out from hence the 13th Instant, to carry him her Majestys Orders.

From the London Gazette.

Faro, Jan. 6. Eight of the French Squadron sail'd from the Bay of Cadiz the 3d Instant in the Morning on a Cruize, as was generally believ'd, off Cape St. Vincent, and nine more remain'd in Port.

Faro, Jan. 13. His Majesty's Sloop the Shark, Capt. Hughes, arriv'd here Yesterday from Gibraltar: Before she came off the Bar, and in Sight of the Port, she took a Spanish Barcolongo Privateer of eight Carriage Guns, besides Swivels, and 65 Men, after a short Engagement, in which the Captain of the Privateer, with two or three more, was kill'd, and several others wounded. The Privateer was fitted out at Cadiz, and newly come from thence upon this Coast.

Naples, Jan. 12. A Train of 40 Battering Cannon and 12 Mortars are preparing with the greatest Dispatch at the Arsenal for the Use of the Spanish and Neapolitan Armies. Recruits are constantly sent from hence to compleat their Regiments, and the Officers have receiv'd Orders to repair immediately to their respective Posts.

Rome, Jan. 16. The Great Duke of Tuscany has lately caused all the Families who had Apartments in his Palaces in this City, belonging to the Allodials of the late Medici Family, to remove from them. This Day died Cardinal Lucini.

Florence, Jan. 19. The Austrian, Spanish, and Neapolitan Armies continue in their Winter-Quarters. A Report still prevails here, that the latter are to march thro' Tuscany to join the Troops under Don Philip in the Genoese State. We are in daily Expectation of the Arrival at Leghorn of the Squadron of 12 Ships under the Command of Commodore Osborn, in his Way to the Coast of Genoa.

Lisbon, Jan. 20. Two Days ago we had Advice of Admiral Torres being arriv'd at Ferrol from the Havanna with two 70, two 60 Gun Ships, and two Frigates, which last are said to be French.

Bonn, Feb. 1. A few Days ago a French Party came to Neuwied, two Leagues on this Side Coblentz, and made Search after Count Linange, who is raising a Regiment in this Neighbourhood for the Service of the States-General. He was luckily gone from thence a few Hours before the Party arriv'd, but they seiz'd and carried off five of his Recruits, and about twenty Suits of Regimentals which they found in the Hands of a Taylor.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, Jan. 29. We hear Sir John Douglas, of Killhead, Bart. Member of Parliament for the County of Dumfries, is appointed Collector of the Feu-duties of trick Forest, and Constable of Dunbar, a Place of considerable Value.

COUNTRY NEWS.

Newcastle, Jan. 30. The Charles Man of War sail'd from this Port the 18th Instant, and on the Sunday following, off Whitby, observ'd a Cutter bear down upon them, to decoy them; but the Charles's Crew were order'd below Decks and Guns in, and as afraid of her, bore away: But the Cutter suspecting her to be a West-India Man, and of little Force, pursued her; and when she came within Gun-shot, the Charles gave her a Broadside; upon which the Cutter immediately struck: She had on board 150 Half-Anchors of Brandy and 1500 Weight of Tea, and other Goods.

Bristol, Feb. 2. The Rev. Mr. Cary, Rector of St. Philip's, is chosen Chancellor of this Diocese, in the room of the late Dr. Carew Reynold, Lord Bishop of Derry.

LONDON.

The great Cause concerning the *Centurion Prize Money*, between the Officers of the *Gloucester* and those of the *Centurion*, after having been three Times heard before a *Committee of Council*, is remitted back to the *Learned Civilians*, who we are assur'd have Orders finally to *determine it. Quære*, Whether the *Largeness of the Sum* does not make the *Property* of it much more *difficult to decide?*

Orders are issued out for recruiting all his Majesty's Regiments of Foot in the Plantations, Minorca, Gibraltar, &c. for the ensuing Year.

A Draught of fifteen Men of a Company, out of the several Regiments of Foot and Horse now in the Kingdom is order'd to be made, to be sent abroad to compleat the Regiments in Flanders; the Draughts are order'd to be made in one Month's Time.

The Lords of the Admiralty have been pleased to appoint Capt. Rich, late Commander of his Majesty's Sloop the Baltimore, to be Captain of the Bridgwater Man of War of 20 Guns.

Lieutenant-General Folliot, of the First Regiment of Foot-Guards, is appointed to command as a General Officer at Windsor, during Marshal Belleisle's Confinement there.

The following Colonels, being eight in Number, of the Foot-Guards have likewise Orders to attend the aforesaid Marshal always, viz. of the First Regiment, Col. Rombouillet, Col. Durey, Col. Durand, and Col. Sabine; of the Second Regiment, Col. Noel, and Col. Lethieullier; and of the Third Regiment, Col. Kingtley, and Col. Buchan.

On Saturday General Folliot set out for Windsor, to order the Apartments to be got ready there as fast as possible: And several Chaise-Marines went the same Day to the aforesaid Place with Furniture.

His Majesty has been pleas'd to appoint William Harvey, Esq; to be a Welch Judge, in the room of Henry Proctor, Esq; deceas'd.

The Lords of the Admiralty have appointed the Hon. George Edgcumbe, Esq; to be Captain of the Kennington Man of War, a 20 Gun Ship.

Their Lordships have likewise appointed Mr. Way to be Surgeon of the Sandwich, a 90 Gun Ship, now at Spithead

Monday se'nnight the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Salisbury was married at his Seat at Hatfield in Hertfordshire, by the Rev. Mr. Haynes, Rector of that Parish, to Miss Keate of Canterbury, a very accomplish'd young Lady.

Tuesday Morning James Coulter, of Farnham in Surrey, Esq; was married at Newington Church to Miss Sharp, only Daughter and Heiress of the late Capt. Sharp, formerly Commander of the Canterbury Man of War; an agreeable young Lady with a Fortune of 6000 l. Immediately after the Ceremony the new married Couple set out for Mr. Coulter's Seat in Hampshire, which has been some time fitting up for that Purpose.

On Sunday Roger Miller, of Stow in Buckinghamshire, Esq; was married at St. Anne's, Limehouse, to Miss Ware of New Broad-Street, an agreeable young Lady with a Fortune of 10,000 l.

A few Days since died at the Bath, after a tedious Indisposition, James Kettle, Esq; of Mansfield-Street, Goodman's-Fields, formerly an East-India Commander, one of the Brethren of the Trinity House, and a Director of the Royal Exchange Insurance.

The Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor has presented the Rev. Mr. Abraham Shewell to the Rectory of Corton, alias Corlton, in the County of Suffolk and Diocese of Norwich.

Yesterday se'nnight came on at the South-Sea-House the Choice of Governors of the said Company, when his Majesty was chosen Governor, Peter Burrell, Esq; Sub-Governor, and John Bristow, Esq; Deputy-Governor.

Thursday se'nnight a Grant pass'd the Great Seal to enable the Rev. Mr. Samuel Salter to hold the Prebend of the Cathedral Church of St. Trinity, in the Diocese of Norwich.

The same Day a Dispensation pass'd the Great Seal to enable the Rev. Richard Levett, M. A. Chaplain to the Countess Dowager of Uxbridge, to hold the Rectory of Leigh, in the County of Stafford and Diocese of Litchfield and Coventry, together with the Rectory of Blithfield, in the said County and Diocese.

They write from Oxford, that there is a great Struggle for the Office of Publick Orator, vacant by the Death of the Rev. Mr. Cotes; and that the Candidates are Dr. Lisle of Magdalen College, Mr. Hind of Christ-Church, present Senior Proctor, Mr. Merick of Trinity College, and Mr. Drake of Baliol; and that the Election will be made on the 7th Instant by the Convocation by the Way of Scrutiny.

We hear that the Duty on Soap and Candles amounted last Year to 550,000 l. the Leather to 180,000 l. and the Licences on Persons retailing Spirituous Liquors to 106,000 l.

The Treasurer of the Foundling-Hospital has receiv'd from Matthew Lamb, Esq; the Sum of 500 l. being a Benefaction to that Hospital out of the Money left to be disposed of in Charity by the late Earl of Thanet.

Last Week twenty Persons were try'd and convicted before the Commissioners of Excise for retailing Spirituous Liquors without a Licence, and fined in the Penalty of 10 l. each.

It is said that there are upwards of 300 Informations lodg'd at the Excise-Office against several of the most considerable Distillers in Town, for retailing Spirituous Liquors without a Licence; and that upwards of twenty Persons are employ'd to give Informations.

Tuesday the Judges met in the Common-Pleas New Treasury, and chose their respective Circuits for the Lent Assizes, viz.

Northern Circuit.	*Home Circuit.*
Lord Chief Justice Lee,	Mr. Baron Carter,
Mr. Justice Wright.	Mr. Justice Abney.
Norfolk Circuit.	*Oxford Circuit.*
Lord Chief Justice Willes,	Mr. Baron Reynolds,
Mr. Justice Burnet.	Mr. Serjeant Birch.
Midland Circuit.	*Western Circuit.*
Lord Chief Baron Parker,	Mr. Justice Dennison,
Mr. Baron Clarke.	Mr. Serjeant Hussey.

Mr. Serjeant Hussey and Mr. Serjeant Birch go the Circuits, in the room of Mr. Justice Chapple and Mr. Justice Fortescue Aland, who are both sick.

We hear a Bill is preparing and will be soon brought into Parliament for shortening the expensive Proceedings in the High Court of Chancery, and obtaining Leave for the Six Clerks, and other great Officers in that Court, to dispose of their Places at Pleasure, according to antient Custom.

They write from Barkway in Hertfordshire, that Yesterday se'nnight, as a Labourer belonging to Mr. Ramant, was turning up some Dung, he found a large Plate of Silver, about the Size of a Sheet Almanack; but not knowing what it was, stuck it up in the Thatch of an adjacent Outhouse, where his Master found it the next Morning; and seeing it was Silver, he order'd the Man to make a further Search, in doing which, he found several Pieces of Plate of Value, and among the rest an Image of about three Pound Weight, suppos'd to be Gold.

Yesterday se'nnight Information was given to two Excise Officers that a Smuggler would pass thro' Three-Coney-Walk at Lambeth, about Nine that Night, with a half hundred Bag of Tea; whereupon they waited there 'till about Eleven; but not meeting with him, they quitted the Place, and next Morning he was found drown'd in a Well, with his Tea, in a Garden adjacent to Lambeth Wells: It is suppos'd he was inform'd of the Officers Intention, and endeavour'd to go through the Garden, in order to escape them.

On Sunday Morning one Henry Read, a Tidesman on board the Shirley, Thompson, from Jamaica, in Greenland-Dock at Deptford, hang'd himself in the Steerage of the said Ship; there was no Person on board when he committed this rash Action; but soon after two Lads belonging to the Ship, came on board, and found him warm, but dead.——It is remarkable, that he always behav'd in a very sober manner, and was in good Circumstances, which makes this Affair the more surprizing.

Last Saturday was committed to Rochester Gaol, being conducted thither under a strong Guard of Soldiers, Hugh White, the most notorious Smuggler in the County of Kent; there being no less than eighteen Warrants against him for clandestinely running unaccustom'd Goods; the Penalties of which amounts to upwards of 4000 l.

Thursday se'nnight a Court Martial was held on board the Lenox at Portsmouth, when the Captain of his Majesty's Ship the Hampton-Court was tried, and honourably acquitted.

All the Officers of his Majesty's late Ship the Northumberland were likewise tried and acquitted, and the First Lieutenant had the Thanks of the Court, for having discharg'd his Duty as a brave and prudent Officer; but the Master of her was sentenced to be confin'd in the Marshalsea Prison during Life.

On Monday the Company of his Majesty's Ship the Romney, Capt. Greenville, receiv'd their Prize-Money for the N. S. del Rosario, a Spanish Ship, taken by the aforesaid Man of War, which was paid at the Bank, being 104 l. to each private Man. The aforesaid Man of War took 29 Prizes, while she was out on her Cruize in the Mediterranean, &c. amounting in all to 200 l. each Foremast-Man.

The Swift and New Eagle Privateers have taken and sent into Dover a Dantzick Ship of 220 Tons, laden with Plank, bound to Brest.

Poſtſcript of a Letter from Briſtol, Feb. 2.

'Paſt Ten o'Clock at Night. This Moment we 'have certain Advice, that the King William Privateer 'has taken and brought into King-Road two rich Prizes. 'A Report is very current here, that the Southwell 'Privateer has taken a Spaniſh Galleon.

From the London Gazette.

Mahon Harbour, Dec. 8. Vice Admiral Rowley arrived off this Port the 13th paſt with the Fleet under his Command, together with the Victuallers, and Store-ſhips, the moſt Part of which got in with him the ſame Night. Capt. Gaſcoign and eight Sail were left without to ſee the reſt of the Tranſports and Victuallers in before him, and by the 15th at Night they all got in, except the Nonſuch and Chatham, which alſo are ſince arrived. There is Advice from Capt. Ambroſe of the 18th of November laſt, that he had taken two French Merchant Ships laden with Fiſh from Newfoundland, and re-taken an Engliſh Merchantman, called the Succeſs, William Palmer, Maſter, going from Cork to Liſbon with Salt Proviſions. He likewiſe ſunk a French Privateer; but in trying to ſave her People, had the Misfortune to loſe Mr. Bell, his Third Lieutenant, with two of his Men.

BANKRUPTS.

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